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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 SSM-01 PA-01
INR-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
SAA-01 NEAE-00 SP-02 PM-03 /049 W
----------117806 201517Z /44
O 201430Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4317
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9227

LIMDIS

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, IS, EG
SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY ON RETURN OF EL ARISH TO EGYPTIAN CIVILIAN CONTROL

1. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS IN THE ISRAELI PRESS THAT BEGIN IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A POSITIVE RESPONSE AT THE JULY 23 CABINET MEETING TO SADAT'S PROPOSAL THAT EL ARISH BE RETURNED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO EGYPTIAN CIVILIAN CONTROL. SO THE STORY GOES, NEITHER BEGIN NOR DAYAN HAVE SAID NO TO THE IDEA AND DAYAN IS RUMORED TO BE ACTIVELY TURNING THE POSSIBILITY OVER IN HIS MIND.

2. IF BEGIN DECIDES TO TAKE THIS STEP, IT WILL BE DESPITE THE STOUT OPPOSITION OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET WHO ARGUE THAT SADAT'S RECENT INTERFERENCE IN ISRALI

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POLITICS MERITS NO UNILATERAL GESTURE ON ISRAEL'S PART.

3. INFORMATION WE RECEIVED TODAY FROM PROMINENT LABOR MK DANI ROSOLIO FURTHER COMPLICATES THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION ON THIS MATTER. ACCORDING TO ROSOLIO, LABOR WILL OPPOSE IN THE KNESSET SUCH A MOVE BY BEGIN BECAUSE IT WOULD CREATE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WITH RESPECT TO THE WEST BANK; EGYPTIAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY IN EL ARISH TODAY; JORDANIAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY IN JERICHO NEXT WEEK.

4. ROSOLIO'S COMMENTS, IF ACCURATE, WOULD CONTINUE THE UNFORTUNATE LABOR ATTEMPT WHICH BEGAN LAST DECEMBER TO ATTACK BEGIN FROM THE RIGHT ON THE ISSUE OF SINAI WITHDRAWAL. ALTHOUGH THIS PARTICULAR LABOR CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE MUCH HEADWAY HERE, IT DOES NOT MAKE IT ANY EASIER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO BOW ON SUNDAY TO SADAT'S DESIRE FOR AMAGNANIMOUS ISARELI RESPONSE TO HIS VISIT TO JERUSALEM.
VIETS

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